

Hugh C. McBride

# Inside This Edition

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CYS standardized procedures ensure a topquality level of service for all children for whom the Army provides care.



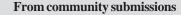
# Page 13 Borders, bladers, bikers: Buckle up!

anniversary of America's independence with food, fests and fireworks.

If you're on post and on wheels, then you'd better be beneath some protective gear. See page 13 for all the details.



# Thorns 'n Roses





# Roses to:

Capt. Jay Cash and Staff Sgt. Aaron Pyper of the 6th Area Support Group Provost Marshal's Office, for their outstanding "First Choice" customer service. These two Soldiers have gone out of their way on numerous occasions to assist with problems and questions relating to

installation passes and installation access rosters. Great work and thanks!

The Kelley Barracks Shoppette, for adding television shows to the store's DVD rental section.

Giving community members the opportunity to view both "classic" and relatively recent episodes is a great service and is truly appreciated.

Luigi LeRose, for giving us not only a great onpost dining option at LeRose Restaurant, but also for his many behind-the-scenes efforts on behalf of our community. Your efforts may not always be acknowledged, but they are definitely appreciated.

The 6th ASG Directorate of Public Works, for lining Patch Barracks with flags for the Army's birthday and Independence Day. This was an impressive way to help celebrate these two very important days.

The 6th ASG Directorate of Morale, Welfare and **Recreation**, for bringing the rodeo back to Robinson Barracks. We missed this great German-American event last year - whoever was responsible for its return should be commended for continuing this tradition and providing community members with a special way to celebrate the Fourth!

E-mail comments to citizen@6asg.army.mil or fax them to 421-2570/civ. 0711-729-2570.

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copies every two weeks.

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# Bush lauds resolve of founders, praises troops' selfless service

Note: The following text is an excerpt of the speech President Bush delivered July 4 in Morgantown, West Virginia. A complete transcript of the speech may be accessed online at www.whitehouse.gov.

#### By George W. Bush U.S. President

n Independence Day, we remember the ideals of liberty that led men from 13 colonies to gather in Philadelphia and pen a declaration of self-truths. And we remember the band of patriots who risked their lives to bring freedom to a new continent.

On July 4, 1776, more than five years of the Revolutionary War still lay ahead. From the battle of New York to the winter at Valley Forge to the victory at Yorktown, our forefathers faced terrible losses and hardships.

Yet, they kept their resolve. They kept their faith in a future of liberty, and with their hard-won victory, we guaranteed a home for the Declaration's proposition that all are created equal.

Through the centuries, the Declaration of Independence has remained a revolutionary document. As President Kennedy said on the 4th of July, 1962, "The Declaration unleashed not merely a revolution against the British, but a revolution in

## America's revolutionary truths

The revolutionary truths of the Declaration are still at the heart of America:

We believe in the dignity and rights of every person.

We believe in freedom and equal justice, the rule of law, and a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Through the centuries, this creed of freedom and equality has lifted the fortunes of all Americans.

And we know that this great ideal of human freedom is entrusted to us in a special way, and that the ideal of liberty is

Defending the ideals of our founding has required the service and sacrifice of every generation, and the men and women of our armed forces have always answered our nation's call. With their courage, they have crossed oceans, defeated murderous ideologies and liberated the oppressed.

And today, on this Fourth of July, our grateful nation thanks our 25 million veterans for their service to our country.

At this hour, our men and women in uniform are defending America against the threats of the 21st century. The war we are fighting came to our shores on September the 11th, 2001. After that day, I made a pledge to the American people: We will not wait to be attacked again. We will bring our enemies to justice, or bring justice to our enemies.

Our enemies in this new war are men who celebrate murder, incite suicide and thirst for absolute power. They seek to spread their ideology of tyranny and oppression across the world. They seek to turn the Middle East into a haven for terror. They seek to drive America out of the region.

These terrorists will not be stopped by negotiations, or concessions, or appeals to reason. In this war, there is only one option, and that is victory.

We are pursuing a comprehensive strategy to win the war on terror. We're taking the fight to the terrorists abroad so we do not have to face them here at home. We're denying our enemies sanctuary and making it clear that America will not tolerate regimes that harbor or support terrorists.

And we're spreading freedom, because the terrorists know there is no room for them in a free and democratic Middle East.

# Creating a foundation of peace

By advancing the cause of liberty in a troubled part of the world, we will remove a source of instability and violence, and we will lay the foundation of peace for our children and our grandchildren. Iraq is the latest battlefield in the war on terror.

Our work there is difficult and dangerous because terrorists from across the region are converging on Iraq to fight the rise of democracy. The images of cruelty and suffering we see on television are real, and they are difficult for our compassionate nation to watch.

Yet, the terrorist violence has not brought them any closer to achieving their strategic objectives. The terrorists tried to Americans have always believed in certain truths: We know that the freedom we defend is meant for all men and

women, and for all times. And we know that when the work is hard, the proper response is not retreat; it is courage.

intimidate the Iraqi Governing Council, and they failed.

They tried to delay the transfer of sovereignty to Iraq, and they failed. They tried to stop the free Iraqi elections, and they failed. They continue to kill in the hope that they will break the resolve of the American people, but they will fail.

The lesson of this experience is clear: The terrorists can kill the innocent, but they cannot stop the advance of freedom.

This January, the world watched as the Iraqi people defied intimidation, dipped their fingers in ink and cast their votes in the country's first free and democratic election in decades.

And last week, on June the 28th, the free nation of Iraq marked the first anniversary of the day when sovereignty was restored to its rightful owners, the Iraqi people.

By helping Iraqis build a free and democratic nation, we will give strength to an ally in the war on terror, and we'll make America more secure. To continue building a free and democratic Iraq, Americans and Iraqis are fighting side-by-side to stop the terrorists and insurgents. And our military is helping to train Iraqi forces so they can defend their own liberty.

The men and women of America's armed forces are bringing great honor to the uniform they wear and to the nation they serve. And in this time of testing, our troops, whether they be stationed here or abroad, can know that the American people stand behind them all the way.

I thank all the military families who are with us today. Times of war are times of great sacrifice, and the burden falls especially hard on the families. You're playing a vital role at a crucial time in our nation's history. All Americans are inspired by the strength and the sacrifice of our military families.

Some of America's finest men and women have given their lives in the war on terror, and we remember them on Independence Day. We pray for the families who have lost a loved one in freedom's cause. And we know that the best way to honor their sacrifice is to complete the mission, so we will stay until the fight is won.

### Moving toward liberty

In a world moving toward liberty, we are determined to show the meaning and the promise of liberty. The greatest strength of America is the heart and soul of the American people. Every time a volunteer reaches out to a neighbor in need, our nation grows stronger and more hopeful.

As we celebrate the Fourth of July, we rededicate ourselves to the ideals that inspired our founders.

During that hot summer in Philadelphia more than 200 years ago, from our desperate fight for independence to the darkest days of a civil war, to the hard-fought battles of the 20th century, there were many chances to lose our heart, our nerve, or our way.

But Americans have always held firm, because we have always believed in certain truths: We know that the freedom we defend is meant for all men and women, and for all times.

And we know that when the work is hard, the proper response is not retreat; it is courage.

We've got a great future for our country. From the mountains of West Virginia to the Great Plains, to our Pacific shores, the truths of the Declaration still guide America, and remain the best hope of mankind.

I believe that this century will be "liberty century" – and I know that, carrying the spirit of 1776 into this new age, we will leave a stronger and better country for all who call this great land home.



Special Operations Command, Europe's incoming senior enlisted advisor, Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Burrows, returns the SOCEUR colors during a June 24 Change of Responsibility Ceremony on Patch Barracks. SOCEUR's outgoing SEA, Command Master Chief Paul Knauer, and SOCEUR Commander Maj. Gen. Thomas Csrnko look on.

# SOCEUR welcomes new senior enlisted advisor

By Melanie Casey

pecial Operations Command, Europe's senior enlisted advisor Navy Master Chief Paul Knauer passed responsibility to Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Burrows during a June 24 Change of Responsibility Ceremony in Washington Square on Patch Barracks.

Maj. Gen. Thomas Csrnko, SOCEUR commander, said that Knauer's service was a great asset to the command.

"I could not have hand picked a finer warrior," Csrnko said. The senior enlisted advisor serves as the principal advisor to all of the leadership within SOCEUR, Csrnko said. The SEA is also responsible for setting the tone of the command and coordinating professional development for all of SOCEUR's enlisted service members. He also serves as the standard bearer and guardian of the SOCEUR colors, Csrnko said.

"Chief Knauer is a consummate professional. He can always be counted on to provide key insight into the operations of [SOCEUR]," said EUCOM's senior enlisted advisor, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bartelle. "He's going to be missed."

## 'A great command'

"The difference between a good command and a great command is the people you work with," Knauer said during his remarks. "And this is a great command.

"I will miss the team spirit and the camaraderie – putting together ideas and implementing them downrange," he said, adding that he is grateful to have had the opportunity to work with the quality people of SOCEUR.

His one regret upon leaving, Knauer said, is that he won't to be a part of SOCEUR's continued participation in Operation Enduring Freedom.

But, he said, "I'll be watching from a distance. May the

I had always wanted to come back to SOCEUR. It just shows that if you set your goals and stick to them, they will materialize.

Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Burrows

Special Operations Command, Europe

# 'A proven warrior'

Burrows, the incoming senior enlisted advisor, is a "proven warrior with extensive service," Csrnko said.

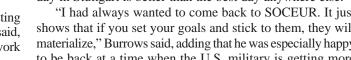
During his 28-year career, Burrows has served with the 1st Ranger Battalion; 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) – including a previous assignment with the Panzer-Kaserne based 1st Battalion; the 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne); and the elite Delta Force.

"[Stuttgart] feels like home," Burrows said. "The worst day in Stuttgart is better than the best day anywhere else.

"I had always wanted to come back to SOCEUR. It just shows that if you set your goals and stick to them, they will materialize," Burrows said, adding that he was especially happy to be back at a time when the U.S. military is getting more involved with operations in Africa.

SOCEUR, Burrows said, has a tradition of doing things the right way, and he "look[s] forward to being a part of the team. [Knauer] set the bar high."

- Additional reporting by Christine Castro



# Equal Employment Opportunity Counselors Needed

- All civilians in permanent positions can volunteer.
- Help resolve workplace issues involving discrimination.
- Training provided Aug. 8 to 12 on Patch Barracks.

For more information contact the 6th ASG EEO Office: DSN: 421-2649 / CIV: 0711-729-2649 sandie.wallace@us.army.mil

# News & Notes

# Closures & changes

- The Robinson Barracks Community Center phone number has changed to 420-6129/civ. 0711-819-6129.
- The Böblingen Local Training Area's Mussenburger Strasse will be closed until late July due to an extensive construction project.

For details call 431-2415/2256/civ. 07031-15-2415/2256.

## Retiree Council lunch, meeting

The next retiree council meeting is July 20 in the Patch Community Club. Lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by the meeting. A representative of the Disabled American Veterans organization will speak at this meeting.

For more information call 430-7208/civ. 0711-680-7208.

# 'School of Marathon' starts July 25

Registrations are currently being accepted in the Patch Fitness Center for the "School of Marathon," a three-month training and motivation program that will culminate with the Oct. 30 running of the Frankfurt Marathon.

The program costs \$300 and includes extensive coaching, classes and training. For more information call 430-7136/civ.0711-680-7136

## Timed parking enforced on Patch

Timed parking is being strictly enforced at the following locations on Patch Barracks:

- Washington Center
- Finance/APO road
- Shoppette
- PXtra/Food Court
- Power Zone
- PX/Sports Store
- Commissary

Community members are asked to place a blue timedparking sign on dashboards during all shopping visits.

#### Looking for work?

• Army Community Service: Stuttgart ACS is currently seeking qualified individuals to fill part-time and full-time contracts for program assistants in the areas of relocation, employment, and financial and family readiness.

Applicants must have a willingness to help families, strong organizational skills and a dedication to teamwork.

• Family Advocacy Program: ACS's Family Advocacy Program is seeking a qualified person to fill a full-time contract for an administrative assistant position. Applicant must be team-oriented and computer literate.

The Family Advocacy Program also has several parttime contract positions to teach a variety of classes. These positions require experience working with mandated clients and teaching parenting classes. Applicants must have a masters degree in social work.

For more information or to submit an application call 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176 or visit ACS on Patch Barracks.

• **RB Photo Studio:** The Robinson Barracks Photo Studio is seeking a qualified person to fill a contract position for a portrait/family photographer. A portfolio is required to apply. For details call 420-6038/civ. 0711-820-6038.

### Ice cream social

The Military Council of Catholic Women will host an ice cream social July 20, 2 to 4 p.m., on the Patch Elementary School playground. Bring your children and enjoy free ice cream with all the toppings.

For details call Cindy Gendron at 07031-633-747.

# Martial arts classes in Patch gym

The Patch Fitness Center gymnasium offers Wing Chun martial arts. Children's classes are Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m., and the cost is \$29 per month.

Adult classes are Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30 to 7:45 p.m., and the cost is \$49 per month.

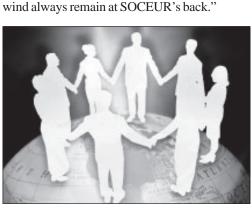
For more information call 430-7136/civ. 0711-680-7136.

# Paintball Saturday coming soon

Get your friends together for a day of colorful paintball fun July 23, 10 a.m.

Participants are asked to park at the crossroads of the Böblingen city landfill, near the old KD training range. Equipment rental fees vary. Only U.S. ID cardholders and their guests are eligible to participate.

For more information or to sign up call Outdoor Recreation at 431-2774/civ. 07031-15-2774 or stop by building 2949 on Panzer Kaserne.



# ——Food, fun & fireworks——Rain can't dampen enthusiasm at Garmisch's July 4 Fest

**Story & photo by Samantha Garrison** *Contributor* 

he Fourth of July weekend kicked off in Garmisch July 1 with the traditional German-American fest on Artillery Kaserne. Many members of the German and American communities came out to celebrate America's birthday with family and friends.

Though the weather was far from cooperative, the rain didn't seem to dampen the enthusiasm of fest participants.

## Fun for all ages

A traditional keg-tapping (presided over by 6th Area Support Group Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris and Garmisch-Partenkirchen Lord Mayor Thomas Schmid) officially opened the ceremony.

A wide range of activities offered entertainment opportunities for fest-goers of all ages. Games, live music by the band "Green Lizard" and great food – a mixture of American and host-nation "delicacies" including hot dogs, hamburgers, barbecued ribs, pretzels and of course Bavarian beer – proved to be more than ample distraction from the gray skies.

Children practiced their golf swings, made balloon animals, shot hoops and jumped in a huge play pen, while the adults socialized and enjoyed the festive atmosphere.

Attendees of all ages seemed to particularly enjoy the "dunk tank." A steady crowd surrounded the attraction, and every splash into the cold water was echoed by a cheer from the group.

The tank brought together parents – such as Col. Thomas Wilhelm, who braved the chill waters – and children, including Daley Wilhelm, who beamed as her father took the plunge.

"It's nice to have a gathering on base," said Thomase Goitia. "Germans and Americans can get together in a relaxed environment to better the relationships with one another and have a chance to meet different people every year – or meet up with the friends you made the year before."

### A family-focused event

"I love to see children and parents interacting together," said Mary Kate Schnaars, who was attending the fest for the first time. "These days it seems as though there is never enough time to spend with the family because of the busy schedules of everyone, Schnaars said.

"This was a much needed entertainment source for the whole family to get a chance to kick back and really enjoy themselves," Schnaars added.

### Celebrating freedom

The fest also attracted a number of out-of-town visitors, who took advantage of the event not only to get to know some of the area's great residents, but also to celebrate America and all it stands for.

A teenager from Mannheim expressed the feelings of many. "I am so happy to have this time to spend celebrating our freedom because a lot of people take this type of thing for granted," she said. "We have to remember all of those who are fighting to keep us free," the youth continued. "I know



As Jack Miller demonstrates, sometimes the best snacks are ones that are bigger than your own head. Miller and the rest of the Garmisch community enjoyed the community's traditional German-American Fest July 1.

I love to see children and parents interacting together.
This was a much needed entertainment source for the whole family to get a chance to kick back and really enjoy themselves.

Mary Kate Schnaars
Garmisch Fest Attendee

this all may sound like a corny cliché, but it is the truth and I am thankful for what we as Americans have, even if everyone does not agree with each other.

That's what being an American is all about – having your own opinion and not having to be afraid to share it with others."

The evening continued with live music, great company and a spectacular fireworks show at the end of the night that both the children and adults seemed to enjoy a great deal.

As one young fest-goer said, "I am happy that a little bad weather did not stop the coolest part of the fest!"

# **News & Notes**

# Ski passes on sale soon

The Zugspitzbahn has decided to make the season ski passes valid for hiking in the coming year. The season starts Aug. 1 and passes go on sale beginning July 21, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Community Bank. More sale dates will be announced as they are scheduled.

Passes are available for children (6 to 15), youths (16 to 18) and adults (over 18). Prices are in euro and vary.

For more information contact Paul Dutro at the Pete Burke Community Center at 440-2461/civ. 08821-750-2461 or e-mail paul.dutro@garmisch.army.mil.

### Piano lessons offered

Sign up now for the fall semester of piano instruction. Instruction takes place in the music practice room at Crafts and Entertainment (building 263 on Artillery Kaserne).

The cost for a two-month lesson package is \$115. For details call 440-3475/civ. 08821-750-3475.

#### Burke Center trips & tours

- Walking tour of Partenkirchen: July 21, 6 p.m. Meet at the entrance to the Von Steuben Hotel. Cost is \$5.
- Verona/Venice: July 22 to 24. Two overnights, transportation to Vicenza and a chance to visit Venice and Verona. Cost is \$189.
- Water Works: Aug. 6. Visit the largest water-themed park in the area. Meet at the Garmisch train station at 7:55 a.m. Cost is \$43 or \$49.
- Iceman in Bolzono: Oct. 1. Bus leaves from the Burke center at 7 a.m. Cost is \$28. This one-day tour to Italy features an opportunity to see the 5300-year-old mummified man who was removed from the glaciers on the Austrian/Italian border in 1991.

#### Entertainment on tap

• The BRAVO Soldiers Touring Show will perform "Private Wars" Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m., in Garmisch's Community Theater on Artillery Kaserne.

Tickets (\$8 for adults, \$6 for youth) are available at the Entertainment Office in the Crafts Tree.

- The theater will also host **live rock 'n roll** courtesy of "Brickfoot" Sept. 8, 6 p.m. This free show is open to all U.S. identification cardholders.
- Garmisch's **One Act Play Festival** will return to the theater Sept. 23, 24 and 30 and Oct. 1.

For more information about entertainment in Garmisch call 440-3476/civ. 08821-750-3475 or e-mail michele. schneider@garmisch.army.mil.

# Bikes & Boards hiring

Morale, Welfare and Recreation VAT/Bikes & Boards shop is seeking applicants for future anticipated openings for a regular part-time and flex clerk position.

For more information call Pam Johnson at 440-3711/civ. 08821-750-3711 or Jan Denikiewicz at 440-3503/civ. 08821-750-3503.

#### Kayaking lessons available

Kayaking lessons are available through the Mueller Fitness Center weekday afternoons and evenings and on weekends. Progressive instruction on moving water and white water is available after the successful completion of fundamental paddling skills on flatwater.

Cost is \$39 per person for private lessons, \$35 per person for semi-private and \$29 per person for groups of three or more. Cost includes all equipment. Instruction lasts approximately three hours.

For more information or to register call 440-2747/civ. 08821-750-2747.



# Why the wait?

# CYS provides insight into waiting list process

By Christine Castro

n the world of military child care, good things do, indeed, come to those who wait.

The 6th Area Support Group's Child and Youth Services implements standardized waiting list procedures developed by the world's largest provider of employer-sponsored childcare - the U.S. Army.

These standardized procedures ensure a top-quality level of service for all children for whom the Army provides care.

"When we have to place children on a [waiting] list, it is not because we don't want to give them a space," said Suzanne King, director of Stuttgart's Child and Youth Services. "We are dedicated to trying to give them the best care possible."

# Waiting period

The 6th ASG provides daily care for 400 to 450 children in programs to include infant and toddler care at the Child Development Centers, before- and after-school care at the School Age Services, adolescent youth programs at the Youth Services and in-home care with Family Child Care providers.

However, as some parents in the Stuttgart military community know, getting into one of these programs sometimes requires a tempo-

The good news is, although there are children on waiting lists, most of them are not waiting to receive child care.

Rather, most are simply on a list pending an opening at the facility of their choice.

The waiting list system was developed in order to provide parents with the opportunity to receive care for their children at the most convenient location, whether that is due to a work location or the desire to have all children located at the same facility.

It is possible, King said, that a child may be moved farther down on a list if another family has a child who is involuntarily displaced due to the closure of their FCC for unforeseen reasons, or if a single parent who recently moved into the Stuttgart area needs care.

### Helping Hands

Confusing as it may seem, the CYS staff wants to inform the community that they are here to assist and add some clarity to an otherwise complex system.

When a parent inquires for care with CYS, his or her child or children may be put on one of three waiting lists based on need and a prioritized category - the Projected Demand Waiting List, Excess Demand Waiting List or the Preference for Care Waiting List. (For detailed information on each waiting list, see the

When we have to place children on a [waiting] list, it is not because we don't want to give them a space. We are dedicated to trying to give them the best care possible.

> **Suzanne King** CYS

box to the right.)

The good news is, it is only on rare occasions that CYS is over extended to the point that they do not have some form of a viable care option to offer. The highest demand for child care is for infants.

A lower provider to child ratio is maintained in the infant rooms due to special demands and care required for infants, King said. In addition, an infant room can accommodate eight infants as opposed to 24 in the

Although they may not be able to tell parents what they always want to hear, the CYS staff understands the frustrations that parents may have.

"This is the military. If [service members] cannot complete their mission, then that is a problem. I am a parent, and I have been in their shoes. My heart does go out to them. When we don't have the slot they need, it bothers me and I will do what I can to try and help them," said CYS Lead Administrative Assistant Erneeka Smith.

# Command support

"The 6th ASG continues to place a high priority on all CYS programs, including the management of our waiting lists and preference for care," said Joseph Moscone, deputy to the 6th ASG commander.

"Our ability to meet all needs is tied to resources, including staffing and facility space, which at times prohibits some customers from obtaining care at their preferred location," Moscone said. "However, we understand the importance of this program and parents' expectations; therefore, we will not rest until everyone needing care receives their preferred option."

For more information about CYS programs call 430-7483 or 0711-680-7483.



Hugh C. McBride

From pumpkin patches to summer swims, Stuttgart's CYS programs offer year-round activities and supervision for the area's children. Local officials The waiting list system was developed in order to provide parents with the opportunity to receive care for their children at the most convenient location.

# About the Lists

Excess Demand Waiting List – This list is reserved for those for whom there is no viable child care available at the current time and are in need of immediate care. The first available slots are offered to single parents, then dual working parents, followed by spouses who work part-time or volunteer at least 20 hours per week. All other eligible patrons are provided the remaining available slots.

Projected Demand Waiting List - Expectant mothers, families in the process of moving to the Stuttgart military community or spouses who are not yet actively employed may place their child on this list. This list allows the CYS administration to forecast future child care demands and program accordingly.

Parents of unborn children must take note that they are responsible for contacting CYS six weeks prior to needing care in order to be moved to another list. As soon as a spouse accepts a job offer, he or she may also contact CYS to be placed on another list.

Preference for Care Waiting List – The majority of children are placed on this list pending an opening in the facility of their parents' choice. Children are prioritized according to demand on separate lists for each facility.

The first available slots are given to children who have been involuntarily displaced from a CDC, SAS or an FCC, followed by children of CYS employees and then those with siblings already attending the facility. Single and dual working families are then placed in the remaining available slots, respectively. And finally, all others, eligibility permitting, are given the opportunity to utilize the services.



# Need some new moves? Help is here.

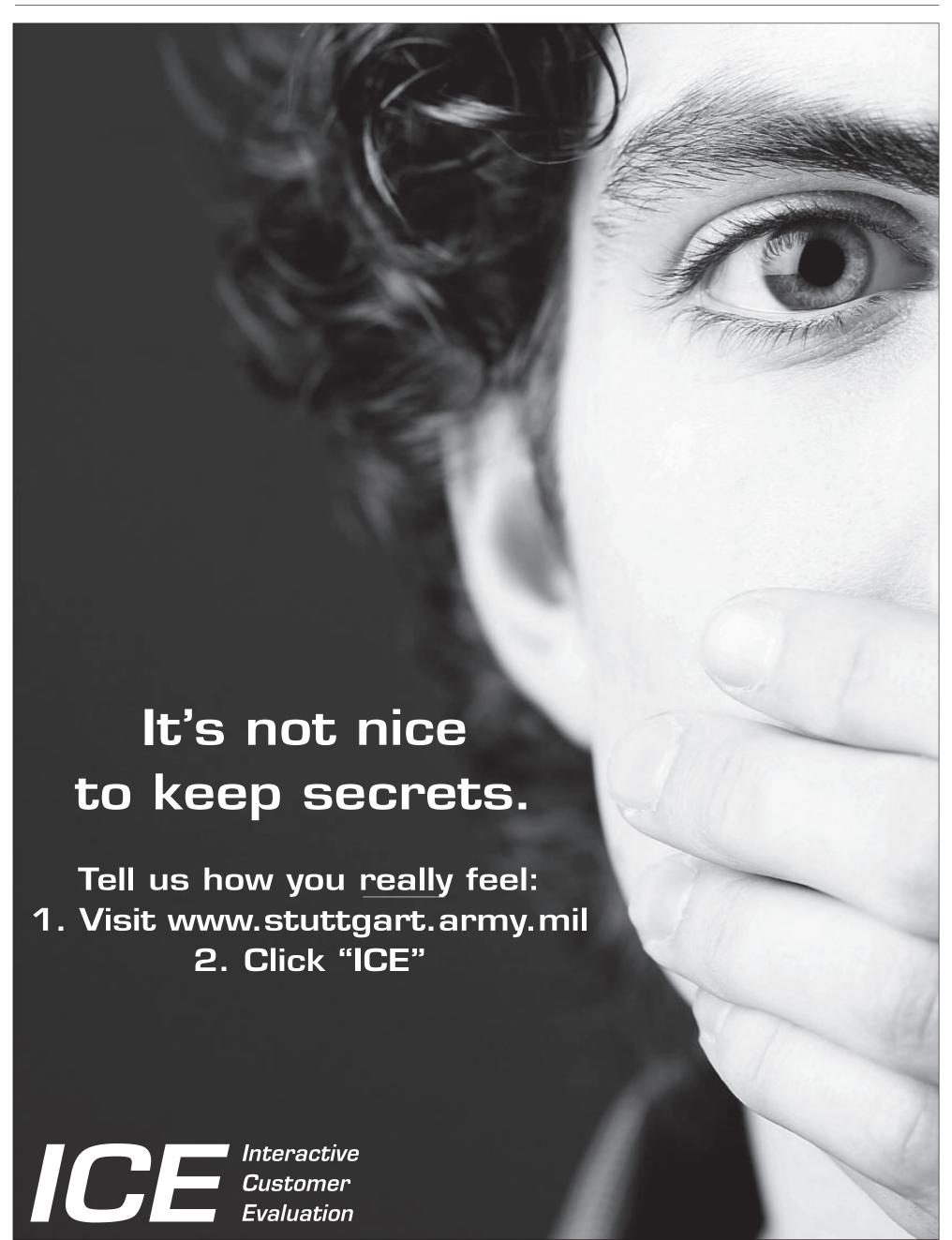
Kids' Dance Camp August 8-11 (10 a.m. to noon)

Ages 9 to 15

\$80 per student Swing, Waltz & Merengue

Taught by Stephanie Fagan

For more information or to register call 0711-707-0339 or 0179-724-7926





Feature The Citizen, July 19, 2005



The pole race was one of the more high-adrenaline aspects of the Independence Day weekend Rodeo America shows on Robinson Barracks. Attendees got an up-close look at many aspects of rodeo — including roping, riding and racing — as interpreted by a multinational, dual-gender team of German and American cowboys and cowgirls.



photos by Hugh C. McBride

Trick-rope expert John Rodgers performs July 2 on Robinson Barracks. Stuttgart celebrated Independence Day weekend with an Old West flair, hosting the European Rodeo Cowboy Assosciation's Rodeo America for six shows July 1 to 4. The popular German-American event (which featured performers and drew audience members from both nations) was accompanied by live music every evening and ended with a fireworks extravaganza July 4.

# STUTTGART SADDLES UP, CELEBRATES OLD-WEST STYLE





[Above] Stuttgart's Independence Day weekend celebration attracted a multinational crowd, but the attire was decidedly American.

[Left] One of the stars of Rodeo America accepts a hands-on show of appreciation from audience members after the afternoon show July 2 on Robinson Barracks. After enjoying the action in the corral, rodeo attendees were welcomed into a fest tent featuring American-style picnic refreshments and free live music.

# Lourdes pilgrimage inspires transformation

By Col. Brian D. Perry Sr. Contributor

ife is about transformation. Changes can be abrupt but are more often subtle. They come to us as both good and bad. On a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France, I find out just how important spiritual transformation can be.

The old train is not air-conditioned. The air is still while we linger at the station. We are a mix of military services and civilians, men and women. Twenty-eight of us make the journey with the German military. We were mostly strangers to one another.

Will the journey to Lourdes be a true religious experience? Will we come back different people, better somehow?

## Sin & forgiveness

A shrill whistle from the conductor and the train moves out. A cool breeze rushes in through the open windows, causing tiny bluewhite dust particles to take flight around the compartment.

Up-beat German music is piped throughout the train. "Memories of Heidelberg and memories of you..."

A Catholic priest enters our compartment. He speaks of past pilgrimages and what we can expect. He acquaints us with the baths in the healing waters of the grotto.

It changed his life, he confides, though he cannot explain it, he says. He speaks of sin and forgiveness.

The balmy evening arrives as vineyards of France draw closer into view. The train slows to a stop near a railhead. Long slow minutes turn into deliberate hours. The air, once more, is still and hot.

We steal glances at one another. Are we all thinking the same thoughts?

The excessive heat lends itself to self-

Though not a fatalist, I think that if I were about to die, I would be glad to spend my last moments in a sunlit place with the life and sounds of the Bavarian language in my ears.

I am surprised that I would think such

# So much is expected

In Mulhouse, France, we stop for Mass. We cause quite a commotion as traffic halts for our impromptu procession. With our German hosts, we march through the town. Over a hundred strong, we nearly fill the ancient church. Ten priests officiate. The transformation continues.

Long, lazy hours aboard the troop train lead us into night, then to another day. In Toulouse, we stop to add an engine for the trek through the Pyrenees.

Although civilians, Ed and Dolly are our liaisons to the pilgrimage, and they quickly become more than tour guides. They become our spiritual consciousness. They prepare us

Ed and Dolly's words are calm, yet insistent. We have all paid our own way to come here. Yes, this is a private pilgrimage, but we represent the United States of America. Soldiers from nearly every country in the U.S. European Command area of responsibility are in Lourdes for the annual event.

So much is expected of us.

# The 'Dolly-Lama'

German band music greets us in Lourdes, 29 hours after our departure from Karlsruhe. Narrow streets are already filling with soldiers.

Ed and Dolly lead an orientation tour.

The air is hot but no one seems to mind. We are anxious to get home. We want to tell everyone of the feelings we now have. In one fantastic weekend, we all made a positive change – but at the same time remained the same.

They enlighten us with stories of past pilgrimages. Their devoutness and kind words impress us. We whisper our affection by calling her "The Dolly-Lama."

I make a mental note to climb the winding way up to the fortress that stands watch over the beautiful city of Lourdes.

But for now we are anxious to visit the grotto, the baths, the Stations of the Cross for the Sick, the Rosary Basilica and the Saint Bernadette Church.

We link with Archbishop Edwin O'Brien of the U.S. military diocese, other American Soldiers, and their families for Mass.

Volunteers are needed to march in the opening ceremonies. Our group is first up. The archbishop leads the American delegation through the nearly 20,000 pilgrims lined up for Mass. The honor guard marches resolutely, the American flag held high.

#### The story of Lourdes

In 1858, a French peasant girl named Bernadette saw a vision of the Virgin Mary in a grotto. She soon had a large number of people following her on her daily journey to the holy place.

Bernadette's credibility was increased when her "lady" instructed her to dig in the ground with her hands, which resulted in the discovery of an underground spring.

The water was soon found to have healing powers and the grotto at Lourdes became a haven for the sick and afflicted from all over the world. The Catholic Church declared Bernadette a saint in 1933.

We bring with us prayers for loved ones and friends. We taste the cool water from the grotto and touch the cold stone. The sick and infirm fill the Rosary Esplanade. Blue gurneys wheel the worst of them, pushed by nurses clad as nuns, closer.

We hear heart-wrenching stories of the children who come here. We only see the very old. They seem at peace.

Military units and bands march by. Many nations have entire units that are Catholic.

From Africa, Cote d'Ivoire parades proudly. The foreign troops break ranks to talk to the Americans. They support us in the war on terrorism, they let us know proudly and firmly.

As night approaches, the sidewalk cafes fill with Soldiers. They overflow into the street, which is now impassable to traffic. Military bands stake out areas to serenade the crowd.

Beer drinking songs in every language carry up to our hotel rooms, enticing us down. In civilian clothes, we join the throng.



photos courtesy Col. Brian D. Perry Sr.

The view from a fortress overlooking the historic city of Lourdes offers visitors a panoramic vista of the location to which Catholics have flocked since St. Bernadette saw a vision of the Virgin Mary in the mid-1800s.





 $[Left] A\ contingent\ from\ the\ African\ nation\ of\ Cote\ d'Ivoire\ joins\ the\ international\ march$ through the streets of Lourdes. [Right] EUCOM's Col. Brian D. Perry Sr. meets Archbishop Edwin O'Brien, leader of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A.

## Reconciliation & worship

Early the following morning we are scheduled for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. An entire building is set a side for the multitude to complete this obligation.

Sunday morning, as rain threatens the international Mass, our EUCOM group is intermixed with the thousands who stand patiently in the Rosary Basilica. Five hundred priests stand before thirty bishops and archbishops at the outdoor altar.

French dignitaries and American generals have privileged seats. Honor guards bring up national flags for posting, Vatican guards lead and 100 foreign Soldiers line the way.

The dark clouds part, the threat of rain quickly dissipates and the sun shines bright.

Sunday evening farewells have Soldiers trading uniform items in the streets of Lourdes. Our group comes away with British Navy hats and airborne pins.

# Are you different?

On the return trip we confide in one another. What did you feel? Are you different? Strangers no longer, our small group can now trust each other with our innermost thoughts.

We feel at peace. We pray together.

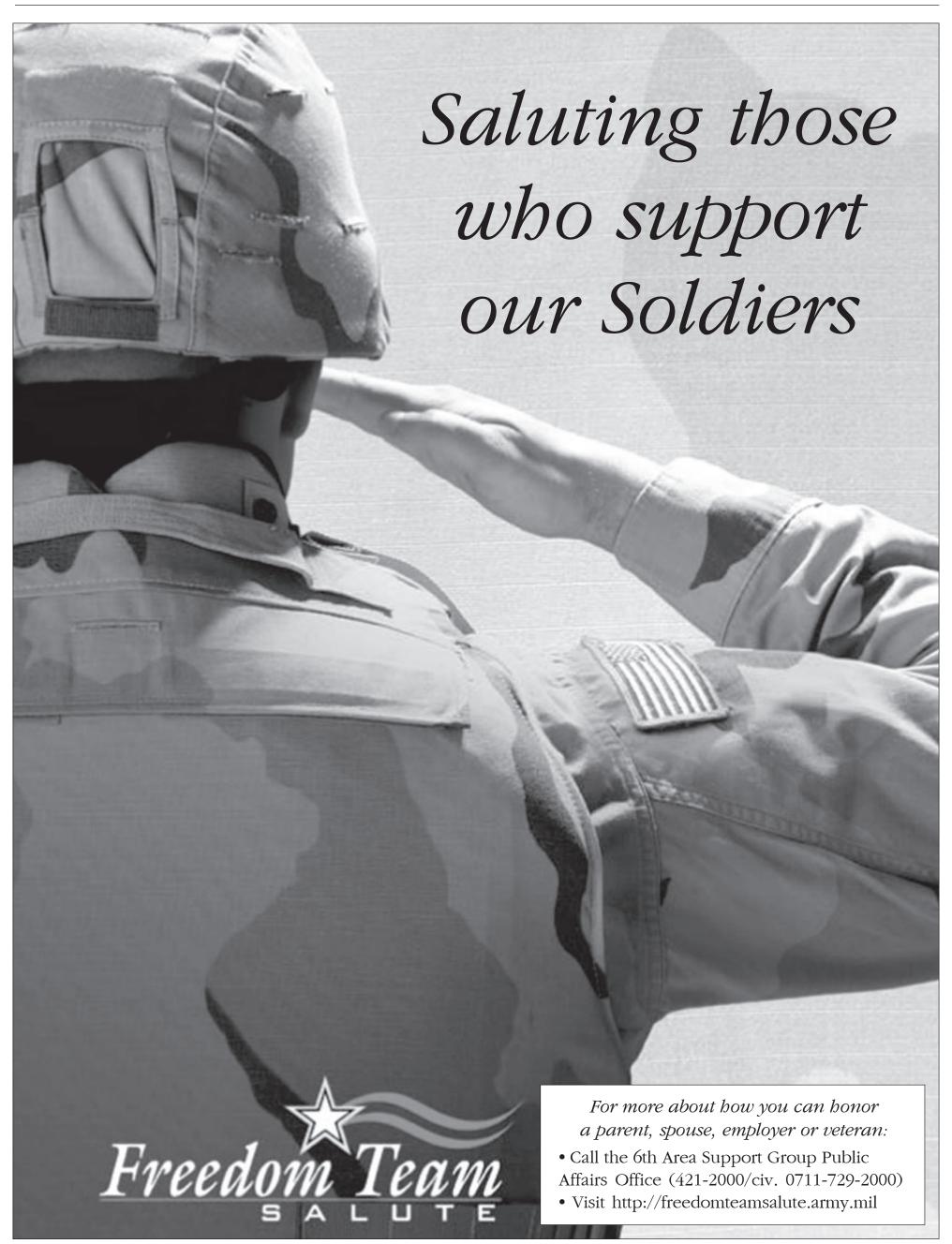
The air is hot but no one seems to mind. We are anxious to get home. We want to tell everyone of the feelings we now have.

Then comes the word from the Germans: Party in the Americans' honor! We start a conga line that snakes through 10 train cars.

Yes, life is about transformation, but some things remain the same. In one fantastic weekend, we all made a positive change – but at the same time remained the same.

Are we better people now? We can only pray that we are.

Perry is the senior military historian for U.S. European Command.





The Oak Processionary Moth (left) and its larvae. When the caterpillar sheds its skin, tiny hair-like projections can be released into the air. Contact with these hairs can cause skin and eye irritation.

# Caterpillars can be cause for concern

Stuttgart Army Health Clinic Release

ast winter was a friendly season for insects. As a result, a high number of caterpillars, such as the larvae of the Oak Processionary Moth (*Thaumetopea processionae*) could be present on area installations.

The caterpillars hedge in May and pupate in the second half of June. During the daytime, they stay in a nest – typically on the lower side of an oak branch.

On the skin of the caterpillars are many hair-like projections called *setae*. When the larvae sheds its skin, the setae can break off and float through the air.

Contact with these hairs can cause skin and eye irritation. This can occur immediately or up to two hours after exposure. Exposed skin may look like mite or insect bites. Physicians call this condition caterpillar dermatitis.

Caterpillar dermatitis may be uncomfortable but rarely creates an emergency.

Very infrequently, exposure can result in an allergic reaction that would require immediate attention.

Removing the nests and burning them – actions that should only be undertaken by trained and authorized professionals – is the only effective method to remove the caterpillars.

Although experts determined that a low risk existed on Stuttgart installations, the 6th Area Support Group Directorate of Public Works coordinated the removal of the area's few identified nests.

For more information call the Stuttgart Health Clinic community health nurse at 431-2157/civ. 07031-15-2157.

# Tips to avoid Caterpillar Dermatitis

- Do not allow children to play next to infested oak trees from May through July.
- Cover skin when near oak trees and do not walk in the underwood of forests.
- Individuals who come into contact with the caterpillar hairs should shower as soon as possible and wash their clothing. Benadryl or Hydrocortisone skin cream can reduce itching.
- In cases of severe exposure or reaction (including nausea, tighness in the chest, swelling or diziness) consult a health care provider.

source: Stuttgart Army Health Clinic

# Remember: Pets need extra care during hot weather

Tust as their human companions should take extra steps to ensure safety during the hot summer months, Fluffy and Fido need a little extra protection, too.

But they can't do it alone. Pets rely on their owners to stay cool and hydrated, parasite free and well groomed year round – especially during the hot summer months.

Follow these tips to keep your faithful friends safe during the warm weather this summer:

- Don't walk pets in any areas that have been sprayed with pesticides.
- Shave a heavy-coated dog's hair to a one-inch length, and groom cats regularly.
- Never leave an animal alone in a vehicle. Even with the windows open, a car can quickly overheat.
- When you go on a walk, don't forget to bring a cool drink for your dog.
- Visit the vet to learn about flea and tick prevention.

For more information visit the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Web site at www.aspca.org.

Animals can become overheated during warm weather. Take a few precautions to ensure the safety of your pet this summer.



# Tick season still in full swing

By Melanie Casey

he warm weather is upon us. This means many families will spend more time outdoors, camping or hiking or perhaps just taking a leisurely stroll through a nearby forest.

But beware: Ticks are still lurking.

#### Tick-transmitted diseases

One hundred of the world's tick species are capable of transmitting diseases to humans and pets.

In Europe, the major threat of disease from ticks to humans comes from *Ixodes ricinus* (the European sheep tick) and *Ixodes persulcatus* (taiga tick), both of whom can carry tick-borne encephalitis and Lyme disease, according to the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine.

Tick-borne encephalitis, known in Germany as *Fruehsommer-meningoenzephalitis* (FSME), is a viral infection of the central nervous system caused by a bite from an infected tick. (Infection can also occur by eating or drinking unpasteurized dairy products from infected animals). It is not known to exist in the U.S. and is not directly transmitted from human to human.

Risk of TBE is greatest from May to September, when *Ixodes* ticks are most active. Those most at risk for contracting the disease are travelers with "extensive unprotected outdoor, evening and nighttime exposure like camping and hiking in rural wooded areas," according to the CHPPM

Symptoms of TBE begin seven to 14 days after a tick bite and include fever, flu-like symptoms, headache, sensitivity to bright light, a stiff neck and nausea.

The disease can result in long-term neurological problems or possibly death, according to the CHPPM.

#### Prevention best medicine

Not all ticks are infected with a disease, so just because an individual is bitten by a tick doesn't necessarily mean that he or she will come down with a disease.

Furthermore, even if a tick is infected, it must remain attached to the skin for *at least several hours* before it can transmit its pathogens successfully. So the sooner you spot the tick and remove it, the better.

Even if a tick is infected, it must remain attached to the skin for at least several hours before it can transmit its pathogens successfully. The sooner you spot the tick and remove it, the better.

To avoid ticks altogether, the CHPPM recommends the following: Wear light-colored clothing that covers legs and arms; tuck pants into boots or socks; tuck shirts in at the waist; apply insect repellents containing DEET to exposed skin (but do not use on infants under two months old); and always perform "tick checks" when coming in from wooded areas (don't forget to check children and pets as well).

## Proper removal

If you spot a tick embedded in the skin, remove it immediately. But take care — if not done correctly, an embedded tick's mouthparts could be left in the skin and disease can still be transmitted:

- To remove a tick effectively, grasp the tick's mouthparts as close to the skin as possible with tweezers and pull back slowly and steadily (as you would with a splinter). Be patient.
  - Wash the bite site and apply an antiseptic.
- Stay alert. If you develop a flu-like illness, feel sick or develop a rash, seek medical attention immediately.
  - **Do not** squeeze, jerk, rip or twist the tick.
- **Do not** apply petroleum jelly, fingernail polish, insect repellents or a lighted match to a tick while it is attached.

For more information, contact the Stuttgart Army Health Clinic at 430-8610/civ. 0711-680-8610.

# Skaters, bikers, bladers: Buckle up!

When on wheels on post, safety equipment not optional



le photo

By Hugh C. McBride

h, summertime: the long hours of luxurious daylight, the multicolored magnificence of nature in full bloom, the rampant violations of common-sense safety regulations.

Community members who skate, bike, board or ride scooters – or who are legally responsible for family members who do – are being reminded once again that the rules governing the wearing of safety gear are, well, just that: rules (as in "not suggestions, not options and not negotiable.")

"We cannot and will not sacrifice the safety of our residents," said Mark Cauthers, acting director of the 6th Area Support Group Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation. "There is no compromise on safety."

Regardless of what type of wheeled activity one undertakes, safety starts with the head (meaning both use it and protect it).

On the protection side, one's helmet should fit properly, be free of cracks, dents or other damage, and (here's where the "using it" part comes into play) actually be on one's head *and buckled* so that it stays there.

Gravity and centrifugal force, it appears, have the nasty habit of separating helmets from heads at times of greatest need – such as when one finds oneself flying through the air with far from the greatest of ease.

Other activity-specific safety requirements are outlined in the box to the right.

# On-post safety rules

# Bicycles & Scooters

- Wear an approved helmet *fastened securely under the chin*.
- Do not use listening devices (such as headphones) that could impede hearing.

## – Skates & Skateboards –

- Wear an approved helmet *fastened securely under the chin*
- Wear kneepads, wristguards and elbow pads.
- Do not use listening devices that could impede hearing.
- Don't skate in traffic.
- Wear light colored or reflective clothing.

Source: U.S. Army Regulation 190-1, Sections VI and VII

For more safety information online visit www. hqusareur.army.mil. Click "USAREUR Summer Safety Campaign, then "Off-Duty."

For information in Stuttgart or Garmisch call the 6th Area Support Group Safety Office at 421-2752/civ. 0711-729-2752 or e-mail hans.dreizler @cmtymail.6asg.army.mil

It's not just sensible – it's also the rule. Cyclists, skaters and skateboarders are reminded that both Army regulations and 6th ASG policies mandate the wearing of protective equipment when engaging in these activities on post.

# National Night Out

Patch Barracks Washington Square August 6 (2 p.m. to 5 p.m.)



Law enforcement displays and demonstrations (MPs & Polizei)

Child safety stations

Drug, crime & violence prevention information

Food, games & fun

And much more!



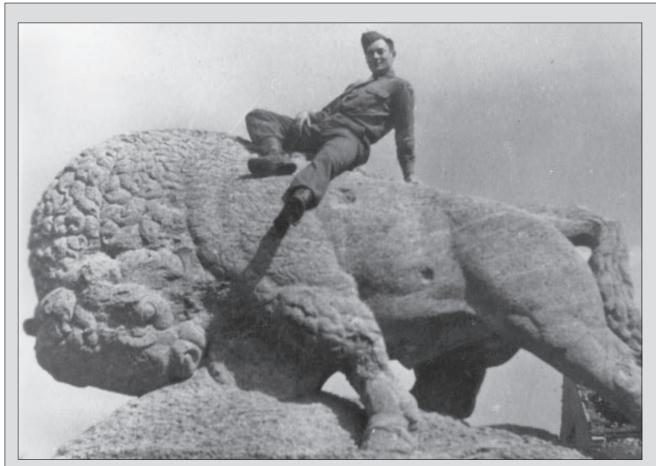


photo by Stanley Wyman, courtesy EUCOM History Office

U.S. Soldier John Greene sits proudly upon the buffalo in this photo, which was taken on Patch Barracks shortly after the end of World War II, when U.S. troops took control of what was then known as Kürmaker Kaserne. What happened to the buffalo and – where its remains lie today – remains a mystery.

# — Nearly 60 years later, still a mystery — Where is the Patch buffalo?

By Melanie Casey

t can't be far, but the exact whereabouts of the Patch buffalo may never be known.

The seven-foot high, white granite buffalo (technically, a European Bison) statue, erected on Patch Barracks in 1938, has been AWOL since 1946.

The buffalo was the emblem of the German Army's Seventh Panzer Regiment, which during World War II was housed on what was then known as *Kürmarker Kaserne*.

The statue stood proudly in front of the unit's regimental headquarters building (which was since destroyed) in Washington Square, where the flagpoles now stand.

### Missing since '46

But when World War II came to an end and U.S. military troops moved onto the installation in 1946, the buffalo was slated for humane destruction.

According to documents provided by the U.S. European Command History Office, Col. Harrison Jacobs, who worked as the S-3 for the unit that occupied the base at the time (the 346th Engineer Battalion), said in 1970 that the unit used dynamite to remove the buffalo from its pedestal and then a bulldozer pushed it into a nearby bomb crater.

Just where, though, is where the mystery lies.

# Theories abound

One theory about the buffalo's final resting site – promulgated by several Germans who worked on Patch after the war as well as by the then-assistant chief of police for Vaihingen – is that it is buried near the site of the helipad on Husky Field.

Another theory is that it is buried near where the Patch Chapel now stands.

A third theory is that the buffalo sits 20 feet below building 2401 in the Weicht Village housing area, which in 1946 was a wooded area.

Henrich Elsasser, who worked on Patch in 1946 during the clean up and renovation effort, said the area was used as a dumping ground then, and that he saw the buffalo lying on its side there until it was eventually covered by debris.

Elsasser concurred that the statue is missing its legs, and notes that it may be buried under up to 20 feet of

The potential for excavation [of the buffalo] slips further away from us as time moves on. [Hopefully] one day workmen will accidentally uncover the prize and our descendants will realize the end of our quest.

## Col. Brian Perry

U.S. European Command History Office

rubble – which would make it difficult to find and even more difficult to recover.

# Slipping away

These discrepancies also make it difficult to determine where to start digging.

While detective work on the whereabouts of the buffalo began in earnest in about 1960, the last time that the issue was seriously considered was in 1974, when several U.S. and German historians began delving into the mystery a little deeper.

At that time, however, neither the Germans nor the Americans had the inclination – or the resources – to initiate a recovery effort.

"The potential for excavation [of the buffalo] slips further away from us as time moves on," said Col. Brian Perry of the U.S. European Command History Office. "[Hopefully] one day workmen will accidentally uncover the prize, and our descendants will realize the end of our quest."

If you have information – or a really good guess – about the whereabouts of the buffalo, e-mail Perry at perrybr@eucom.mil.



Jeremy Bigwood (Army News Service) Gen. Kevin P. Byrnes receives Germany's second-highest service award from German Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger during a June 29 ceremony in Washington, D.C.

# Germans honor U.S. general

By Cheryl Boujnida Army News Service

n American general received Germany's secondhighest service award during a June 29 ceremony in Washington, D.C.

On behalf of German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, German Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger presented Gen. Kevin P. Byrnes with the Federal Republic of Germany's Knight Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit.

The commander of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command on Fort Monroe, Va., Byrnes works with the German Army Liaison Organization, which is also located on Fort Monroe.

"We are truly thankful for his personal commitment, which was the driving force of intensified positive military relations between the United States of America and Germany," said Col. Heinz Feldmann, Army attaché to the German embassy.

Feldmann said joint projects initiated and supported by Byrnes enabled the two nations to reach a level of comprehensive bilateral cooperation that is "a strong pillar of the transatlantic bridge."

"In times that were difficult for both armies, [Byrnes] proved to be a true friend by appreciating Germany's points of view, and maintaining a high level of mutual relations," Feldmann said. "Inspiring fresh initiatives with a professional touch, he focused on maintaining and improving interoperability between our forces."

"This [award] impacts our Army because it underscores the continuing strong cooperation and mutual support between the German and American armies," Byrnes said.

Byrnes stressed that the two armies have been together for a very long time supporting past missions associated with the Cold War, and will continue to take on future missions together in a post-Cold War era.

"The future is about multinational operations. We need to focus on training, leadership development and command and control," he said.

The German and U.S. armies work together every day, Byrnes said, adding that although the mutual cooperation is not prominent in the press, it is the expectation of American and German citizens.

"We should all be proud of the work accomplished behind the scenes," he said. "We show that in times of conflict, we can work together to accomplish the mission and secure our citizens' privileges."

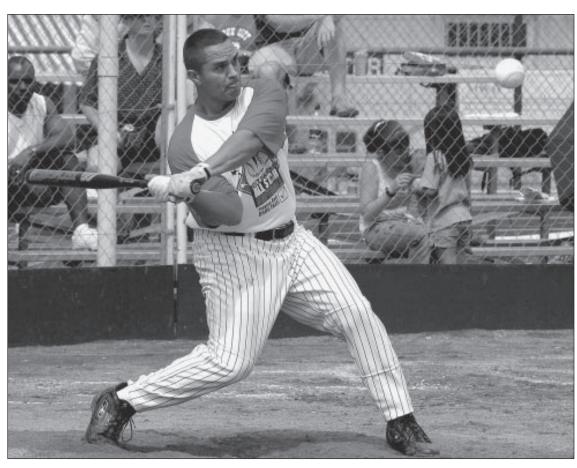
"We're fighting the war on terrorism with America too – our Soldiers total 2,000 in Afghanistan," Feldmann said. "It's paramount that Germany has the support of and access to the U.S. Army."

Hubertus von Puttkamer, rear admiral defense attaché, said personal contact is essential to good international relations.

"Our friendship is a reflection of the heart, which is more important than the brain," von Puttkamer said. "We will continue to express our heartfelt loyalty to one another."

# Diamond days in Stuttgart

# Consecutive weekends showcase top talent on Patch



Ray Meline of Defense Information Systems Agency, Europe, is the picture of focus as he launches into his swing during the "Dusty Diamonds" All-Star game July 25 on Patch Barracks's Husky Field. Meline shared first place in the Home Run Derby with Greg Outlaw from Headquarters, U.S. European Command..

#### Story & photos by Terri Alejandro

Por softball aficianados in Europe, Patch Barracks was the place to be for two consecutive weekends in June and July.

The action got underway June 25, with a Senior Community Leaders Game that pitted senior enlisted players against an officers' team.

The next game featured the cream of the softball crop. The top two players from each of the area's unitlevel teams took to the field as the Nationals played the Americans in the inaugural "Dusty Diamonds" All-Star Game.

The Nationals won the closely fought game by a single run. Pitcher Mitch Miller earned the MVP plaque, which was presented by 6th Area Support Group Assistant Sports Director Steve Sanders.

Six days later, some of the U.S. military's top softball teams in Europe converged on Stuttgart for the three-day Softball X-plosion.

As the tournament began, it didn't



Scott Csrnko beats the throw to third baseman Chris Thompson of DISA-E during a July 25 game that featured community leaders and some of their family members.

look good for the home team – or any other team – as the skies threatened foul weather. Mother Nature, however, proved herself to be a softball lover and the clouds cleared before the end of the first game.

Three days of round robin play were followed by a single elimination round to determine the winner. When the dust settled, the first place trophy was in the hands of the Mannheim team.



# Labor Day Golf Classic 2005

Support the Stuttgart Red Cross

# Monday, September 5

Four-person scramble with over \$1,000 in prizes!
Volunteers are also needed to serve on the golf classic committee.
To register or volunteer call DSN 431-2818 or CIV 07031-15-2818.

